

Southeast News

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A Message For Easter: The Conquest of Death'

Many dramatic stories of devotion and sacrifice have as their theme the battle against death. There is a lengthy catalog of the efforts of science and medicine to sustain and prolong life against the ravages of accident and disease.

In a sense, this is all futile, however. We can only postpone, not eradicate, the inevitable. Late or soon, death comes to all our bodies.

But death is not such a terrible prospect, upon close acquaintance. Often it comes as a blessed release and a messenger of peace and rest. Many fear most not death, but dying, with its attendant suffering. If we could be assured that our passing would be quick and pain free, most of the dread inspired by the approach of death would disappear.

The other fear inspiring element in death is a sense of guilt, dread of judgment and the rewards of evil doing. "For the wages of sin is death," wrote Paul, but added, "but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." However, a gift must be accepted and conserved. Christ "abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." Our part is to embrace that gospel. "If any one keeps my word he shall never see death," said our Lord.

How much more important it is for us to claim and sustain this eternal life of the spirit than to spend our energies in the care and indulgence of physical life.

The message of Easter is that life can conquer death. Jesus gave a visible demonstration of this fact in his own resurrection. His followers were so firm in their belief that he lived again, no later testing could shake their conviction.

The great significance of the Easter experience lies not in an isolated instance of one person, even Jesus Christ, being miraculously raised from the tomb. It is in the assurance that we can share that unquenchable life.

This Easter may be a day of new life for us if, as Jesus this day rose from the grave, we now rise in response to the challenge of eternal life and begin living in the righteousness into which he has called us.

— Eugene M. Bushong

Angolan Missionary Visits S. E. Conference Churches

"There were no trains, no gas for cars, no mail, no telephone and little food," says the Rev. Joyce B. Myers, a United Church of Christ missionary, describing her last days in the ex-Portuguese territory of Angola. She spoke to churches of Southeast Conference as she traveled from one to the other March 9-19.

Ms. Myers, a teacher for the past six years at Emanuel Seminary in the central highlands mission of Dondi and a missionary in Angola for 12 years, was one of the last American missionaries to leave Angola when serious fighting broke out among three liberation groups.

The Portuguese granted independence to Angola November 11, 1975. Angola, with six million people and located on the central west coast of Africa, is twice the size of Texas and potentially one of the richest countries on that continent.

The Church Council of Central Angola, under which Joyce Myers worked, recommended that all foreign personnel leave for the duration of the fighting, but Ms. Myers vowed to return "as soon after independence as possible." She hopes that her return will be less perilous than her exit.

Joyce Myers recalls the trip from the mission by Land Rover. "There were road blocks everywhere, sometimes three in a row, each one manned by soldiers from a liberation group."

When the party of American and Canadian missionaries arrived at the town of Nova Liboa, the plane promised by a friendly mining company executive failed to appear. After a week of anxious waiting, a smaller plane arrived to pick them up. The small plane flew only as far as Windhoech, Namibia, controlled by the South African government. At one point, Ms. Myers faced the prospect of a week's confinement in a refugee camp. In spite of immigration confusion, Joyce Myers was in New York 36 hours after fleeing Angola.

Ms. Myers deplors the intervention of numerous outside groups, including Russians, Cubans, South Africans, Chinese and Americans in supplying arms to one side or the other. "I believe the Angolans themselves could have solved things," she says. "There are no guns made in Angola



and the 30,000 or more killed so far could not have been killed by sticks and stones."

She notes that even though there are now two governments, it is the first time in 500 years any Angolans have been ruling their country. In spite of the vicious civil war, Angolans treasure their independence, she asserts.

Joyce Myers sees a major role for the Protestant Church of Central Angola when peace comes. The church operates over 100 primary schools, seven hospitals and 60 clinics. She has been invited by the Angolan Church for another three-year term at Emanuel Theological Seminary. She was the last United Church of Christ missionary in Portuguese Angola. She hopes to be the first one back in independent Angola.

In Southeast Conference, Joyce spoke at these churches: Atlanta-Central and First; LaGrange, United; Birmingham — Pilgrim and First; Tougaloo, Miss.; Chattanooga, Pilgrim (with Daisy, Sweetwater, and Belvidere); Pleasant Hill; Nashville, Brookmeade (with First and Howard).

A native of Philadelphia, Ms. Myers is a graduate of Elon College, North Carolina (B.A. 1959), and Hartford, Conn. Seminary Foundation (M.A. Div., 1963). She has also taken graduate courses at the Univ. of Conn., the Univ. of Wisconsin, and Union Seminary, N.Y. City.

NEWS BRIEFS

Rev. Alton M. Nixon resigned as pastor of First Church, Phenix City, Ala., effective March 14, 1976. He has returned to business in Northwest Florida and supplies the pulpit at Good Hope Church, Baker, Florida. Rev. Warner D. Noles is supply pastor at First Church, Phenix City.

United Church, LaGrange, Ga., has a new steeple, project of the Youth Fellowship.

Strong winds in the Mountain Creek, Ala., area unroofed part of Rev. Graham Norris' house and destroyed the utility room of Winston Nobles' house, next door.

First Congregational Christian Church [UCC] of Alexander City, Ala., had Open House in the newly renovated parsonage March 7, 1976. The church building is still undergoing a major renovation.

First Church, Sweetwater, Tenn., is having a series of Faith Exploration-Church Planning events under the leadership of Local Church Consultants: Miss Yubenia Prigmore of the local church and Mr. J.K. Murphy of the Oak Grove Church, Pine Mountain, Ga.

First Church, Montgomery, Ala. is having renewed interest in church school activities, with several classes meeting in the sanctuary.

Rev. Henry Williams has resigned as pastor of First Church, Chattanooga, Tenn. Rev. Andrew Frierson, Jr., principal of James A. Henry School of Chattanooga is supplying the pulpit.

The Rev. Woody Clark, pastor of First Congregational Church, Andalusia, Ala., was married to Miss Angie Powell (also of Andalusia) on February 14, in the church at Andalusia.

A "Sweetheart Banquet" for churches of the South Alabama-N.W. Florida Association was held on February 13 at Baker-Good Hope Church. Chaplain Robert Tripp led the entertainment, which included a professional magician.

— Ella Bea Johnson, Sec.

East Alabama Ladies' Night Joins 'Odd Couple'



[LEFT TO RIGHT] — Joe French, flower girl; [seated] Ralph Lee, grandmother of bride; Warren Blankenhorn, bride; David Chandler, parson; [seated] Don Freeman,

uncle of bride; George McKinney, groom; Gwinn Holly, best man [with shotgun]; [seated] Bubba Dollar and Fred Watts, nurse and baby sister to bride; Emmett Davis, usher.

They came by bus, car and truck through the season's worst torrential rainstorm to Ladies' Night at Southern Union College, Saturday, February 21. They were 361 men and women representing 26 churches. East Tallasee and Phenix City First came by chartered bus. Lowell Church won the attendance trophy, with 42 people. Joe Smith of Oak Grove presented camellia corsages to each lady; while David Albright of Phenix City First displayed the grand door prize — a "home for four" — a bird house won by a lady from East Tallassee — built by Bo Spear of Lanett. East Tallassee presented a check for \$200 to Alexander City First to help their renovation. Dr. A.R. VanCleave installed the officers for 1976: President, Horace Welch; Vice-President, Larry Thompson; Secretary-Treasurer, Willie McGill.

Mr. Elmer Alford of Alexander City First won the coveted Outstanding Layman of the Year Award, while his pastor, the Rev. Charles Bell, won the Minister of the Year Award.

The Outstanding Laymen of the Year Award has been an annual event of the East Alabama Men's Fellowship for some years now. Each year, in the Ladies' Night advance mailing to local churches, which includes reservations for dinner etc., every local fellowship is asked to write a resume of their nomination for Layman of the Year. These are judged by ministers of other denominations who do not know our



THE WEDDING GUESTS, left to right: knees and purse, Ralph Lee, Bentley Thompson, Leon Lee, Horace Welch, Larry Thompson, legs of Don Freeman, Wayne Hodnett. The "ladies" are discussing the merits and demerits of the bride

people personally, and the winner is chosen from the contents of the resumes. This year, the Executive Committee of the Association Men's Fellowship proposed Minister of the Year Award — to become an annual award, as well.

The program of the evening: A dashing handsome yet petite groom dressed in a size 50 tux joined by double-ugly, 6'-2", 260 lb., bald headed bride in "trothing their plights." They

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OBSERVING LENT

Here are two suggestions for Family Lenten activities:

1. Plant an Amaryllis in a pot early in Lent to bloom for Easter.
2. Serve Pretzels at special meals. The pretzel was originally shaped as arms crossed in prayer as a reminder in Lent to pray.

(Pilgrim News, Chattanooga, Tn.)

Pastors Hodnett, Auler, Cowlshaw and Bohannon exchange pulpits each Sunday night during Lent: Lanett, Shawmut (Todd), Langdale and West Point (Bethel).

Dr. Eugene M. Bushong, along with members of the Pleasant Hill Church Choir, conduct Vespers in the Wharton Assembly Room on the theme, "The Higher Happiness: For the Mourners, the Hungry and Thirsty, the Merciful, the Pure in Heart, the Peacemakers and the Persecuted." (Community Church News)

Pastor Collie Seymour has as his theme on Sundays in Lent: Love Rescues, Love Creates Community, Love Obeys God, Love Suffers Long, Love Offers Sacrifice, Love Is Acceptable to God, and Our Easter Hope. His Wednesday evening services use a series of Dramatic sermons, "A night with — Peter, Paul, Thomas, Judas, Stephen, the Angry Crowd, Holy Communion." (Belvidere Church, Tn.)

Many churches receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering to respond to the needs of the hungry in countries around the globe and to meet other needs caused by catastrophes such as floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, etc.

Task Force on Evangelism suggests that every Sunday morning in Lent, we pray for our churches, upon rising from the night's sleep.

Pilgrim and First Churches, Chattanooga, worshipped together one Sunday in Lent. Pilgrims from Chattanooga journeyed to Sweetwater, Tn. to worship with the First United Church of Christ there on another Sunday afternoon.

In Nashville, First, Howard, and Brookmeade churches united in Holy Communion at First Church on Maundy Thursday.

The "Staff" of the Southeast Conference — administrative, program, volunteer (some full-time and most volunteer) gathered at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Conyers, Ga., for prayer, renewal and recommitment March 26 & 27. Franklin Thomas, Moderator, and Cally

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Fighting Hunger in Your Own Backyard



Mrs. Maggard and her granddaughter, Della, display some of the more than 200 quarts of vegetables already canned for next winter's meals.

Hattie Maggard's family of Foley Hill, in rural Tennessee, are eating this year — thanks to Hattie's own efforts and the Green Thumb Program, a project of a local church in nearby Oak Ridge.

Mrs. Maggard's family is one of 750 County families with sub-poverty incomes who were enabled to grow their own food last summer through Green Thumb help and encouragement.

Mrs. Maggard, 66 years old and a widow, cares for three young grandchildren. No longer able to work at a paying job, she's proud to be able to produce a major share of her family's food in her hillside garden. "What a difference this makes!" she says. "Now I know where the next meal's coming from."

Her meager income, her willingness to work the garden, and her access to a plot of land qualified Mrs. Maggard for Green Thumb help. It came in the forms of plowing, seeds, small plants, seed potatoes, fertilizer, instructions, advice, easy access to pressure-canning equipment and supplies — and personal encouragement.

Six years ago the Green Thumb Program began as the dream of Lloyd Hileman, Anderson County Community Action Agent. It took form when the people of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Oak

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Watch For Six American Families

Have you noticed how many family-situation series there are on TV these days? It's hard to change channels on a weekday evening without happening on to one American family or another. Soon, you may see more. This time, however, it will not be a comedy series straining to hold some identity from one zany sketch to the next. Rather, it will be six special hour-long documentaries produced by group W (Westinghouse) in association with the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church.

"Six American Families" is a new venture for the United Church. The series uses documentary, interview, and instant replay techniques to open up the lives of six real-life American families to public view in the hope that their dilemmas and decisions, values and lifestyles, might offer some hope to the rest of us that America's third century can build upon the positive values that have gone before.

The first of these will be televised this spring. The family: Mr. and Mrs. Robert George. Mr. George is a policeman; Mrs. George is a floor supervisor for a large metropolitan insurance company. They have three teenage children. The fears and hopes of the George family are ones many of us share. The family's ways of meeting and expressing them are unique. Violence, loneliness, fear, love are all present in their lives.

Watch for a viewing date in your local paper or television guide.

U.C.C. participation in the "Six American Families" project was made possible by a grant of \$100,000 from the 1974 Family Thank Offering to the U.C.C. Office of Communication. Altogether, the cost is ten times that amount.

The six families selected will represent a microcosm of American society in this Bicentennial year. They are well-to-do and poor, urban and suburban and rural, black and white; they represent a variety of religious persuasions.

Viewing the series "Six American Families" will help you to know yourself better and help you better to face the challenges of the years ahead.

Rev. Leonard C. Clough, Board for World Ministries, U.C.C., recently preached at Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, dealing with Annuities and Trusts. He reminded the women that one day many of them would be widows; that many would have larger estates than they expect; and that Planned Giving Agreements can be of benefit to both the donor and our denomination.

Celebrate 17/76 Fund

Celebrate the 17/76 Achievement Fund in your worship service on Sunday, May 23, or on another Sunday more convenient for you. A suggested litany is available, or you may create your own litany with some emphasis on local participation. Mention of the Fund in your sermon and pastoral prayer will be meaningful.

Moments of Concern:

A lay person, preferably from your local 17/76 Achievement Fund Committee, could present a "moment of concern." Material can be lifted from two UCC bulletins in the brochure. Make it local.

Your Own Participation:

Emphasize participation of your own church in the Campaign. Present a summary of the results, either in your church bulletin or from the pulpit. Be sure to express appreciation to those who worked on the 17/76 Committee and to all who made pledges or contributions.

Bulletins:

The U.C.C. bulletin service will carry mention of the 17/76 Achievement Fund on both May 16 and May 23. A limited supply of 17/76 bulletin covers, and also inserts, is available: 287 Park Ave. S., New York, N.Y. 10010.

Link to Bi-Centennial:

17/76 Achievement Fund is a name deliberately chosen to remind of the Bi-centennial celebration, and the Declaration that all are "created equal." The Fund is a practical concern of our Christian concern for equality.

Reminder of Pledges:

Most of us need reminders of pledges we have made in order to keep payments current. The Celebration Sunday gives opportunity for such reminder in your bulletin or in your announcements. If your church has not yet participated in the 17/76 Fund, you may wish to take a special offering as part of the celebration. Offering envelopes are available from the Conference Office.

*Brochures have been mailed to pastors.

'Friends of Villa' Day May 2

Villa International Atlanta is a bridge between Americans and International students, businessmen and research scholars seven days a week. To continue this genuine welcome, Villa needs help from churches, other groups, and individuals to participate actively. Come, listen, and learn, as well as talk and share in the annual "Friends of Villa" Day on May 2nd. Supper will be served at the Villa, 1749 Clifton Road N.E., Atlanta.

For further information, contact Rev. Thomas T. Biggs or Mrs. McAndrew at Villa (633-6783).

'Minister of the Year' Named at Ladies' Night

Meeting on Saturday night, February 21, at Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala., the East Alabama-West Georgia Men's Fellowship named one of their own ministers "Minister of the Year," Charles W. Bell. This story of his achievement was read:

"On Sunday, February 2, 1975, the Rev. Charles Bell met with 20 people, only one a member, and accepted the call to the Alexander City Church. In doing so, he accepted a challenge that others had called "An impossible job, it can't be done, won't work, too far gone", and instilled encouragement and hope to the handful that wanted to see the church reborn.

Living in Carrollton, Georgia, Mr. Bell began without pay, driving 150 miles down on Sunday morning and 150 miles back home on Sunday night. In March, the Church began paying just his car expenses of \$15 a week. In August, they began \$75 a week, and this is his current salary. In November of last year, he received a call to a church of 450 members, but turned it down because of his work in Alexander City, his love for the people, and their trust in him.

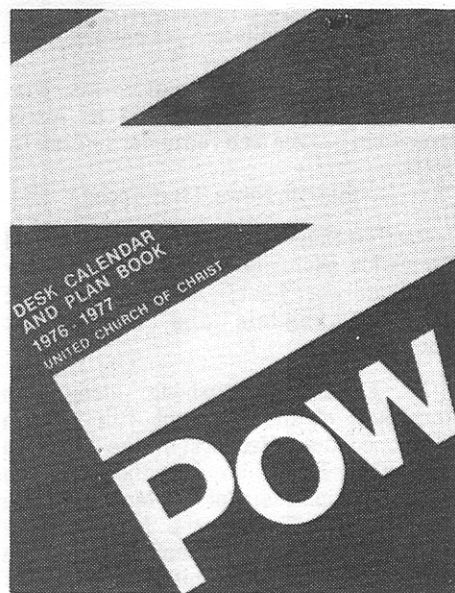
"He accepted the challenge of this church with the property badly in need of repair. The parsonage had been condemned by the City because of termite deterioration, making it unsafe. Yet, he and Mrs. Bell moved in on July 5, and stayed until September 20. Knowing the Church would need an adequate parsonage to attract future ministers, he led the people in renovating and enlarging the parsonage. They added three 12x16 rooms and enlarged most of the existing ones. A 2-car garage, a new roof, and a large front porch have made a lovely minister's home any church would be proud to own. By using much of the old parsonage, they cut down considerably on building costs. Mr. Bell drove his truck hundreds of miles, at his own expense, to get the best price possible on building materials because the church didn't have the money to pay him. Often, he was on his way before daybreak to get the materials, then back and worked all day at the parsonage — visiting homes, hospitals and nursing homes at night.

His seemingly tireless leadership has rallied not only his own church members but Methodists, Baptists, and others in the community to help in this project. His enthusiasm and dedication have made everyone proud to have been a part of this work.

To date, God has blessed this Church and through Mr. Bell's leadership there has been an addition of 25 members. The

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Desk Calendar Popularity Rises



More copies of the current Desk Calendar have been sold this past year than ever before in the history of this once-a-year United Church of Christ resource, after thousands of copies were distributed free of charge to U.C.C. pastors, associate pastors, and directors of Christian Education.

The new 1976-77 Desk Calendar and Plan Book is now available from the Stewardship Council (1505 Race Street, Phila., PA. 19102) and for the same price as last year, \$2.00!

The red, white, and blue cover of the Desk Calendar is a clever adaptation of the logo of the M Power program which will be emphasized throughout the United Church of Christ during this year and next year. For congregations in the M Power program in 1976, the Desk Calendar offers specific helps and suggestions. For those not yet in the program the calendar will continue to provide lists of program resources, suggestions for planning and programming in local churches, and directories of Conferences and National offices, in addition to the monthly pages with lectionary readings and notations of special days.

One of the new features of the 1976-1977 Desk Calendar will be a double-size space for each Sunday, meeting the requests of many persons throughout the country for this improvement.

The Stewardship Council suggests that you order as early as possible so that you

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South Africa

Multi-media Kit

A 12-frame filmstrip entitled "CLOSED" Federal Theological Seminary in South Africa" with an audio-cassette, study guide, and printed background resource materials has been produced by the U.C.C. Office for Audio-Visuals. Sale price: \$10.00.

The focus of the multi-media kit is on the sudden seizure by the South African Government of the property of Federal Theological Seminary, valued at over 2 million dollars. The seminary has been supported in part for over 100 years by the United Church of Christ and by three other U.S.A. denominations. Individuals or groups who are concerned about human rights will want to use this kit. So will people who are concerned about the church and its mission in Africa. Order from: Office for Audio-Visuals, U.C.C., 1505 Race St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19102

Three New Student

Pastors in East Alabama

The East Alabama Association welcomes three seminary students as pastors of three of our Georgia churches. Mr. Max Rittgers, who was Associate Pastor to Dr. David Naglee of LaGrange United Church, has been elected pastor, after Dr. Naglee's resignation. Mr. Eric Young accepted the call to Jones Chapel near Woodbury, Georgia, at the beginning of this year. Mr. Dwight McQueen began his duties as pastor of Oak Grove near Pine Mountain on March 21. These men are enrolled at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. and plan to live on the field to serve these churches while furthering their education. Each is married, with a family.

Plan Now for Vacation

Church School

Now is the time to begin your planning for Vacation Church School! UCC Vacation Ventures Series 1976 has exciting new resources on the theme "Made in God's Image."

The Vacation Venture Series Examination Kit containing one copy of each resource is available now from Cokesbury Regional Service Center, 201 Eighth Ave., S., Nashville, Tenn. 37202, to assist your Church in its creative planning and scheduling of this opportunity for expanded Christian education.

— Juanita Velasco

NEWS

A Service of Worship for the late Mrs. Lurietta V. Mitchell was held on Sunday, March 7, at Bethany Congregational Church, Thomasville, Ga. Mrs. Mitchell served the church as a Missionary, Stewardess, and in any capacity the church needed her. She is survived by two sons.

Seman Church, Seman, Ala., prepared a history of the church for their Memorial Day Service, April 4, also making it homecoming day. Dinners and programs for Fifth Saturday nights have been enjoyed with other churches, the next one to be fifth Saturday in May, at East Tallassee.

The Ala-Tenn. Executive Committee adopted a budget for 1976 which includes \$600 for Brookmeade Church for expenses incurred in its use as the Ala-Tenn. Association Office. Rev. Stephen Gray Association Administrative Assistant, was also awarded a yearly stipend of \$600. The Association Office is designed to centralize communication within the Association. "Letter Missives" and other official association communications will be published and forwarded from Brookmeade's office. Also, Rev. Wilson Welch, as Pastor to the Association, is employed on a per diem basis.

Rev. Mary Lynn Ogletree, Chaplain at Vanderbilt, was guest minister of the week on a noon-time show in Nashville.

A St. Patrick's Day celebration at Chattanooga, Pilgrim featured Joyce Myers describing her experiences in Angola, with guests: Chattanooga First, Belvidere United, Sweetwater First, and Daisy Congregational.

On March 7, several Pilgrim members drove to Sweetwater for a joint service with First Church there.

Pastor David Beebe spoke at the Greater Chattanooga Clergy Association on "Preaching Bicentennial Sermons."

Pilgrim Church also recently sent a free copy of SOUTHEAST NEWS to each member with the regular Pilgrim News, soliciting subscriptions at \$1.00 each.

Desk Calendar. . .

[From page 4]

can receive your calendar in sufficient time to begin planning for the fall. Each local pastor, assistant or associate pastor, and director of Christian education automatically receives a free copy. Congregations are encouraged to order additional copies for church officers, committee leaders, and other key program persons.

Bicentennial Suggestions

Rewrite or bring up to date your Church Constitution and your Church Covenant.

Pay church debts. Mt. Olive Church, Tallassee, Ala., will have a day-long celebration on Sunday, July 4, as they burn the Mortgage incurred when they built their new church edifice and as they seek the historical religious values of these past two hundred years. Ed White is the pastor.

First Church, Nashville expects to pay off their building debt and to secure a pastor this year.

"Preach Bicentennial Sermons," suggests David L. Beebe, pastor of Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga.

Clean up the place. The walls and steel supports of the old Brookmeade Church sanctuary, burned by fire in November, 1973, were torn down to the slab. All steel and pipes below the slab, as well as dead shrubbery and rubble behind the building were removed.

Ministers, attend the Ministers' Convocation April 26-28, at Camp Sumatanga to enter into the last 100 years of reconstruction following the Civil War and to reconstruct the place of our churches in that time. Dr. Robert McMath of Georgia Tech and of Central Church, Atlanta, will lead that historical pilgrimage.

Churches and Ministers, attend the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference, June 11-13, 1976, at Savannah and Midway, Georgia. Dr. Robert V. Moss, President of the United Church of Christ, will be one of the speakers.

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Minister of Year. . .

(Cont. from P. 4)

Church now has a membership of 26. All this has been accomplished in one year. When Mr. Bell can devote his full time to visiting and ministering to the people in Alexander City, what a blessing it will be to watch the Church's progress."

As a footnote: many men in the East Alabama-West Georgia Men's Fellowship have seen the progress of First Congregational Church of Alexander City first hand as they shared in the renovating of the church building. They worked Saturdays in May and June of 1975. As laymen, we commend our ministers who joined their church men in this work: The Revs. Bill Hodnett, O.H. Armstrong, Columbus United; Jim Cowlshaw, Langdale; Harold Auler, Lanett; and James McAdams, East Tallassee.

Larry Thompson, V.P.
E. Ala.-W. Ga. Men's Fellowship

East Alabama . . .

(Cont. from P. 2)

joined hands before a confused, bubble-headed parson and the most unlady-like assemblage of this social season — not, however, before a jilted former girl-friend protested with prior claim to the groom. So went the "Womanless Wedding," a light and lively part of the evening's entertainment. The genuinely appreciated talents were those of the 'ladies' and gents, the wedding guests, who amused a most receptive audience with their visual and verbal antics. Space doesn't permit reporting it all, but the nurse and baby-sitter of the bride, Bubba Dollar and Fred Watts, were an outstanding comedy combination. Formal pictures of the wedding had to be cancelled as a buxtom member of the entourage distressingly warned that "she" had less than 10 minutes left on her "18-hour girdle."

— Warren Blankenhorn

Lenten Sugsesions. . .

(Cont. from P. 3)

Rogers of the Office for Church Life and Leadership, led the Spiritual Life Retreat.

First Church, Atlanta, has Lenten Services each Wednesday with guest speakers and presided over by two deacons each night. Speakers in 1976 are: Homer C. McEwen, pastor; Joyce Myers, Emmanuel Seminary, Angola; Oliver J. Haney, Dean of Mason Seminary, I.T.C.; Harry V. Richardson, President Emeritus,

Barrier-Free Design

Barrier-Free Design is a phrase being heard more and more these days. Simply put, it means that a town, a place or building has been made accessible to the physically handicapped.

Many of the 25 million physically handicapped Americans are demanding barrier-free design of public places as a civil right. Some see it as a concession from society to handicappers. I prefer to think of it as an investment. The overwhelming majority of disabled people are highly-productive, tax-paying citizens, according to all available statistics.

For instance, the federally-funded Vocational Rehabilitation program, which trains handicapped people for jobs, is one of the few federal programs which makes money for the government. Those trained in the program almost always repay, in income tax, in a short period of time the amount spent on their training. More significant, they are removed from welfare rolls.

If you own a business, ramping the entrance and making doorways and aisles of sufficient width will put money in your pocket. Handicappers need restaurants, motels, service stations, department stores; grocery stores, and drug stores; and, if your business is accessible, you will get their business.

Amazingly, and, in my opinion, inexcusably, very few churches are accessible. Though many have special programs for the handicapped, few have integrated disabled people into the life of their church by making their building accessible.

If your church is not barrier-free, why not designate a Handicap Sunday when one deacon attends worship in a wheelchair, one comes blindfolded, one uses crutches, and one stuffs his or her ears with cotton? Then decide what you can reasonably do to make all God's people feel welcome as a service station is to a guy who just pushed his car two miles while hundreds of motorists passed him by without a second glance.

(Taken from Morgan-Scott Project "Newsletter", Deer Lodge, Tn.)

I.T.C.; Charles B. Cofer, Academic Vice President, I.T.C.; and John L. Giles, Associate Pastor of First Church.

Sunday evening Lenten Services for Bethel, Lanett, Todd, and Langdale Churches found the pastors alternating among the churches. The pastors are: Bill Hodnett, James Cowlshaw, Harold Auler, and Charles Bohanon.

JESUS WANTS YOU

If the United Church Board for World Ministries were to create a recruiting poster similar to one used by the U.S. armed forces, a large picture of Jesus with a finger pointed toward the observer would carry the legend, "Jesus wants you!" There really is no such poster for the UCBWM, but the fact remains, you are needed. To be specific, you are needed overseas in Turkey if you are a nurse, a physician, a research editor and writer, or secondary teacher of mathematics, science, English, Chemistry, French, or art.

The UCBWM has openings at the Gazientep Amerikan Hospital, a 49-bed hospital in the interior of Turkey; at the Redhouse Press in Istanbul; and at secondary schools in Izmir, Uskudar, and Tarsus.

If you are interested in learning more about these openings or others in other parts of the world through the United Church Board of World Ministries, write or call the Personnel Office, UCBWM, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, N.Y. 10027, (212) 870-2711. Do it today!

Fighting Hunger. . .

(Cont. from P. 3)

Ridge risked \$200 for seed so that 20 needy families could start vegetable gardens.

Word quickly spread about the success of the first year's gardens. The next year, major financial support came from Lenten self-denial offerings of Episcopalians throughout the area, and the number of gardens grew to 150. This support has continued and has been expanded by grants from other area churches as well as from the United Fund, plus occasional government aid.

The recent acquisition of modern community canning equipment, centrally located and available to all Green Thumb gardeners, greatly increased the program.

No more than two or three Green Thumb families a year have failed to make their gardens. This year's 750 gardens form a food source for nearly 3,000 people, not only raising their nutrition level, but also giving them the new hope that comes with being able to help themselves. Fighting hunger is a priority for the United Church of Christ. What are you doing?